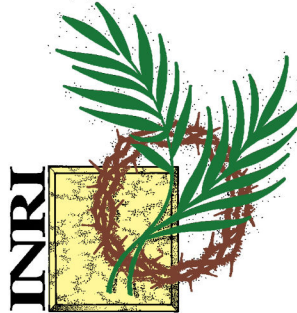


REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

Rev. Soren Flessen



This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

Gathering

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God, the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna in the highest!

Processional Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus enters Jerusalem

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.' " ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Blessing of the Palms

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

P: We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

P: Let us go forth in peace,

C: in the name of Christ. Amen.

Processional Hymn: "All Glory Laud and Honor"

Refrain

*All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

- 1 You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. Refrain**
- 2 The company of angels are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. Refrain**
- 3 The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. Refrain**
- 4 To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. Refrain**
- 5 Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. Refrain**

Greeting:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you**

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: Hosanna in the highest!

P: As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray:

The Prayer of the Day

C: Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Reading is from the 50th Chapter of Isaiah

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens — wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

L: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Song:

"Lift the Palms"

Jan. Linda, Deb

The Second Reading is from the 2nd Chapter of Philippians

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

L: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 14th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: Mark 14:1-15:47

Dramatic reading according to Mark

P: The Gospel of the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon Hymn: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

- 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.**
- 2 Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.**
- 3 I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.**

Nicene Creed:

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

In Jesus you came among us as a suffering servant. Give your church humility. Redeem your people from pride and the certainty that we always know your will. Heal us and empower us to confess Christ crucified. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In creation, life springs from death. Redeem your creation awaiting resurrection: restore lost habitats and endangered species. Create new possibilities for areas affected by climate change, grant relief from natural disasters, and nurture new growth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Jesus was handed over to the powers of this world. In all nations, instruct the powerful, that they would not exploit their power but maintain justice. Sustain soldiers, and guide those who command them, that they serve those in greatest need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

On the cross Jesus joined all who feel forsaken. Abide with those who are condemned to death. Defend those who are falsely accused. Console and strengthen those who are mocked or bullied. Accompany all who suffer (*especially*); grant respite and renewal. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You called followers to tend Jesus' body in death. Sustain hospice workers and funeral directors. Bless this congregation's ministries at times of death: those who plan and lead funerals, those who prepare meals, all who offer support in grief. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You inspired the centurion to confess Jesus as your Son. We praise you for the faith you have given to people of all places and times. Give us also such faith to trust the promises of baptism and, with them, to look for the resurrection of the dead. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

Distribution of Communion

Blessing after Communion

P: May the body and blood of our living, risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P: God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

P: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

Sending Song: "All to Jesus I Surrender"

- 1 All to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him, in his presence daily live.

*Refrain: I surrender all, (I surrender all), I surrender all, (I surrender all),
all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

- 2 All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at his feet I bow;
worldly pleasures all forsaken, take me, Jesus, take me now. *Refrain*

- 3 All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power, let thy blessings fall on me. *Refrain*

Announcements & Sharing

Dismissal

P: Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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